



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**BDOC 5410 THEOLOGICAL HERMENEUTICS
HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
DR. JOHN MARK HICKS
SUMMER 2017 - JULY 10-14**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course surveys the historical development and application of a Restorationist hermeneutic by the Campbell-Stone Movement in light of its philosophical and theological origins. The historic Restorationist hermeneutic is then discussed in the light of modern hermeneutical concerns and contemporary criticisms. Against this total background, a hermeneutical model is proposed and applied to some specific contemporary and biblical concerns.

PROFESSOR:

I am adjunct Professor of Christian Doctrine at Harding School of Theology. My fulltime job is Professor of Theology at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN (since 2000). I taught at HST fulltime from 1991-2000. I have previously taught at Alabama Christian School of Religion (now Amridge University in Montgomery, AL) and Magnolia Bible College (in Kosciusko, MS, which is now closed). I have also adjuncted for Christian Brothers, Abilene Christian University, and Rochester College.

My Ph.D. is in Reformation and Post-Reformation Historical Theology from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. I received it in 1985, and before that I received my B.A. from Freed-Hardeman (1977), M.A.R. from Westminster Theological Seminary (1979), and M.A. from Western Kentucky University (1980).

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will be able to summarize the history of restorationist hermeneutics from the Reformation through the American Restoration Movement.
2. The student will be able to articulate and evaluate contemporary questions regarding evangelical and restorationist hermeneutics in a postmodern context.
3. The student will be able to understand and apply a particular biblical-theological hermeneutical method to the text of Scripture using the lens of theological and missional hermeneutics.
4. The student will be equipped to engage in hermeneutical discussions at both the theoretical and practical level.

This course contributes to the following M.Div. outcomes: (1) be able to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts and (2) exhibit an understanding of the general history of the church and of doctrine, including the Stone-Campbell Movement in particular.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: (Total Reading Pages: 795 pages)

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Heath A. Thomas. *A Manifesto for Theological Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016. ISBN: 978-0801030871. 304 pages (221 pages required).

Smith, James K. A. *The Fall of Interpretation: Philosophical Foundations for a Creational Hermeneutic*. 2nd ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0801039720. 256 pages (222 pages required).

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Faith Speaking Understanding: Performing the Drama of Doctrine*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0664234485. 298 pages (238 pages required).

Textbooks can now be ordered through Amazon. Please access Amazon by clicking the Textbook link which can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the HST website (<http://hst.edu>). Check the book list provided under the textbook service tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. Once you have entered Amazon through the HST link, you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Class Participation.* The student is expected to complete all assigned reading in the course prior to attending class. This is extremely important if we are to have the kind of discussion that is conducive to biblical-theological reflection in the context of Stone-Campbell history and our postmodern context. Class participation is expected and essential for the highest grade.
2. *Reading Exam.* This exam will cover major points from the three required textbooks and journal articles. The exam will be administered after lunch on Friday afternoon. This will constitute 20% of your grade.
4. *Comprehensive Exam.* This will be given to the student on Friday. The final exam will ask you to integrate the material of the course in a comprehensive manner. The exam is due July 20 at midnight. This will constitute 30% of your grade. The Exam will constitute about 2000 words total.
4. *Final Paper: Exercise in Theological Interpretation.* The student is required to write a significant research/reflection paper. The paper involves additional research as you search out other perspectives, reviews, and essays on your chosen subject. However, I expect the paper to reflect your serious engagement with the reading material assigned in this course. The paper should be between 3500-4000 words.

You must bring a detailed outline (at least two full pages) and a bibliography (at least a single page) to class. We will look at these as a class in a seminar fashion on Thursday afternoon to enrich each other's project and our own understanding at the same time. Each student will present their outline orally for about 10 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion (depending on enrollment, these times may change). This presentation is 10% of your grade.

Please email me about your paper project at least one month before class meets for approval of the topic. Indicate your primary purpose, how you will approach the topic, and identify some of your resources. The due date for this is June 10.

The paper is due July 28 at midnight. The paper is 40% of your final grade.

Late assignments are automatically reduced by one letter grade. Excessively late (more than one week) assignments are reduced two letter grades.

Grading Scale: A=100-92, B=91-84; C=83-70; D=60-69; F=0-59.

OTHER COURSE DETAILS

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Academic Integrity.

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school. This course adheres to university guidelines regarding workload requirements per credit hour.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken Advanced Theological Research (5990) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "Library Resources" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in course 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Daily Schedule

July 10-14	Session 1	8:00-10:50
	Chapel	11:00-11:30
	Session 2	1:00-4:40

July 10 Lunch 11:30-1:00

Chapel and the Monday lunch are course requirements. Also, in this schedule we will meet an additional 40 minutes daily instead of meeting on Saturday.

Day One: July 10 -- Patristic, Reformed, and Campbellian Hermeneutics

Topics: Rule of Faith, Reading Scripture as an Ecclesial Community, Reformed Regulative Principle, Baconian Inductive Hermeneutics, Enlightenment Context of Stone-Campbell Hermeneutics.

Assigned Reading:

1. Paul Blowers, "The *Regula Fidei* and the Narrative Character of Early Christian Faith," *Pro Ecclesia* 6 (Spring 1997) 199-228. Available ATLA

Day Two: July 11 – Stone-Campbell Hermeneutics (19th & 20th Century)

Topics: Inductive Hermeneutics, Moral and Positive Law, Rise of Historical Exegesis, Use of "Command, Example, Inference" Hermeneutic, Contemporary Criticism.

Assigned Reading:

1. Olbricht, Thomas H. "Hermeneutics in the Churches of Christ." *Restoration Quarterly* 37.1 (1995) 1-24. Available ATLA
2. Collier, Gary. "[Bringing the Word to Life: Biblical Hermeneutics in Churches of Christ.](http://www.garydcollier.com/articles/tb-e-pub/btwtl.html)" *Christian Studies* 11.1 (1990) 18-40. URL: <http://www.garydcollier.com/articles/tb-e-pub/btwtl.html>
3. Dudley, Russ. "Restorationist Hermeneutics Among the Churches of Christ: Why Are We at an Impasse." *Restoration Quarterly* 30.1 (1988) 17-42. Available ATLA
4. *A Manifesto of Theological Interpretation*, Introduction and chapter 1.

Day Three: July 12 Postmodern Situation and the Nature of Scripture

Topics: Postmodern hermeneutics, the role of hermeneutics in the human condition, the two horizons of hermeneutical work, nature and function of Scripture, the ecclesial context for reading Scripture as authoritative for the church.

Assigned Reading:

1. Smith, *The Fall of Interpretation*.
2. Bartholomew, *Manifesto*, chapters 2-3, 5

Day Four: July 13 – Theological and Missional Interpretation

Topics: the nature and function of theological interpretation, missional reading of Scripture, theological method for reading Scripture. Project presentations.

Assigned Reading:

1. *A Manifesto of Theological Interpretation*, chapters 6-10
2. Hunsberger, George R., “Proposals for a Missional Hermeneutic: Mapping A Conversation,” *Missiology* 39 (2011) 309-321. Available through ATLA

Day Five: July 14 – Moving from Scripture to Theology (Case Studies)

Topics: Evangelical methods: principlizing, redemptive-historical, redemptive-drama, and redemptive-movement as options; case studies.

Assigned Reading:

1. Van Hoozer, *Faith Speaking Understanding* (except the Appendix).

Select Bibliography

- Abraham, William J., Jason Vickers, and Natalie V. Van Kirk, eds. *Canonical Theism: A Proposal for Theology & the Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008).
- Allen, R. Michael, ed. *Theological Commentary: Evangelical Perspectives* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2011).
- Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003).
- Billings, J. Todd. *The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010).
- Boring, Eugene M. *Disciples and the Bible: A History of Disciples Biblical Interpretation in North America* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1997).
- Bowald, Mark Alan. *Rendering the Word in Theological Hermeneutics* (London: Ashgate, 2007).
- Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press)
- Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker)
- Brownson, James V. *Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic* (Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998).
- Fowl, Stephen E. *Engaging Scripture: A Model for Theological Interpretation* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2008).
- Fowl, Stephen E. *Reading in Communion* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1998).
- Fowl, Stephen E., ed. *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Classical and Contemporary Readings* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1997).
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006).
- Green, Joel B. *Seized by Truth: Reading the Bible as Scripture* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).
- Green, Joel B. and Max Turner, eds. *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).
- Grenz, Stanley J. and John R. Frame. *Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2001).
- Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).
- Goheen, Michael W. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011).
- Horton, Michael S. *Covenant and Eschatology: The Divine Drama* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002).

- Jacobs, Alan. *A Theology of Reading*. (Boulder, CO: Westview, 2001).
- Jensen, Alexander. *SCM Core Text: Theological Hermeneutics* (Norwich: SCM Press, 2007).
- Jenson, Robert W. *Canon and Creed* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2010).
Journal for Theological Interpretation.
- Lints, Richard. *The Fabric of Theology: A Prolegomenon to Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).
- Meadors, Gary T., ed. *Four Views on Moving Beyond the Bible to Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
- Missio Dei: *A Journal of Missional Theology and Praxis*.
- Moller, Karl, Craig Bartholomew and Colin Green, eds. *Renewing Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000).
- Murphy, Nancey. *Beyond Liberalism & Fundamentalism: How Modern and Postmodern Philosophy Set the Theological Agenda* (Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996).
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989).
- O'Day, Gail R. and David L. Petersen, eds. *Theological Bible Commentary* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2009).
- Poythress, Vern. *God-Centered Biblical Interpretation* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1999).
- Redford, Shawn B. *Missiological Hermeneutics: Biblical Interpretation for the Global Church*. (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Pub, 2012).
- Scalise, Charles J. *From Scripture to Theology: A Canonical Journey into Hermeneutics* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996).
- Scalise, Charles J. *Hermeneutics as Theological Prolegomena: A Canonical Approach* (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1994).
- Seitz, Christopher R. *The Character of Christian Scripture: The Significance of a Two-Testament Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).
- Smith, James K. A. *The Fall of Interpretation: Philosophical Foundations for a Creational Hermeneutic*. 2nd ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Smith, James K. A. and Henry Isaac Venema, eds. *The Hermeneutics of Charity: Interpretation, Selfhood, and Postmodern Faith* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2004).
- Spawn, Kevin L. *Spirit and Scripture: Exploring a Pneumatic Hermeneutic* (T. & T. Clark, 2012).
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Two Horizons: New Testament Hermeneutics and Philosophical Descriptions* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980).
- Treier, Daniel J. *Introducing Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Recovering a Christian Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

- Two Horizons New Testament Commentary* (Eerdmans)
- Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary* (Eerdmans)
- Vanhoozer, Kevin. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical-Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2005).
- Vanhoozer, Kevin. *Pictures at a Theological Exhibition: Scenes of the Church's Worship, Witness and Wisdom*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin, A. Adam and Francis Watson, eds. *Reading Scripture with the Church: Toward a Hermeneutic for Theological Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006).
- Vanhoozer, Kevin and Jon Laansma, eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).
- Webster, John. *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
- Werner, Jeanrond. *Theological Hermeneutics: Development and Significance* (Norwich: SCM Press, 1994).
- Westphal, Merold. *Overcoming Onto-theology: Toward a Postmodern Christian Faith* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2001).
- Westphal, Merold. *Whose Community? Which Interpretation? Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006).
- Wright, N. T. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2011.
- Zimmermann, Jens. *Recovering Theological Hermeneutics: An Incarnational-Trinitarian Theory of Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).